SOUTH SUDAN

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

	2015
Problem understood	6
Target date for completion of cluster munition clearance	4
Targeted clearance	7
Efficient clearance	6
National funding of programme	4
Timely clearance	5
Land-release system in place	7
National mine action standards	7
Reporting on progress	6
Improving performance	6
PERFORMANCE SCORE: AVERAGE	**5.8**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- South Sudan should ensure that every effort is made to identify and address all cluster munition remnants (CMR) on its territory as soon as possible.
- South Sudan should accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Operator and national reporting formats should disaggregate submunitions from other unexploded ordnance (UXO). Mine action data should be recorded and reported according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) land release terminology.

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- South Sudan should develop a resource mobilisation strategy and initiate dialogue with development partners on long-term support for mine action, including a specific focus on CMR contamination.
- South Sudan should increase its financial support for mine action operations. Greater assistance from the government and international partners should be provided to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) to strengthen its capacity to develop effective policies to address explosive hazards.

CONTAMINATION

At the end of 2015, South Sudan had a total of 116 areas suspected to contain CMR, with a total size estimated at more than 6.5km^2.[1] Areas of CMR contamination from decades of pre-independence conflict continued to be identified in 2015, and the threat was compounded by the fighting which broke out in December 2013.[2]

Despite the signature of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan in August 2015, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) reported that sporadic fighting continued across the country in 2016, which it said "continues to litter vast swathes of land, roads and buildings with Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)".[3] Ongoing insecurity, particularly in Greater Upper Nile region (Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile states), persisted in preventing access to confirm or address CMR contamination.[4]

Eight of the ten states in South Sudan have areas suspected to contain CMR (see Table 1); Central, Eastern, and Western Equatoria remain the most heavily contaminated.[5] CMR have been found in residential areas, farmland, pastures, rivers and streams, on hillsides, in desert areas, in and around former military barracks, on roads, in minefields, and in ammunition storage areas.[6]

From 1995 to 2000, prior to South Sudan's independence, Sudanese government forces are believed to have air dropped cluster munitions sporadically in southern Sudan. Many types of submunitions have been found, including Spanish-manufactured HESPIN 21, US-manufactured M42 and Mk118 (Rockeyes), Chilean-made PM-1, and Soviet- manufactured PTAB-1.5 and AO-1SCh submunitions.[7]

Since 2006, more than 770 sites containing CMR have been identified across all 10 states in South Sudan, including new contamination as a result of renewed conflict since December 2013.[8] As at the end of 2014, UNMAS reported that 108 known dangerous areas containing CMR remained.[9] In 2015, an additional 70 CMR-contaminated areas were identified in seven states. Of these, 26 were cleared during the year.[10]

UNMAS discovered evidence of new CMR contamination in February 2014, south of Bor in Jonglei state.[11] Evidence indicated the cluster munitions had been used in previous weeks during the conflict between opposition forces supporting South Sudan's former Vice President Riek Machar and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) government forces, which received air support from Uganda.[13] In September 2014, South Sudan reported that a joint government-UNMAS team had investigated the allegations and established that cluster munitions had been used, but could not determine the user.[14]

Table 1: **CMR contamination by province as at the end of 2015**[12]

Province	SHAs with CMR	Area (m^2)
Central Equatoria	44	2,527,992
East Equatoria	45	2,411,127
Jonglei	5	121,917
Lakes	3	920,186
Unity	1	40,000
Upper Nile	2	0
West Bahr El Ghazal	2	55,962
West Equatoria	14	462,210
Totals	**116**	**6,539,394**

CMR contamination in South Sudan continues to pose a physical threat to local populations, prevents the delivery of vital humanitarian aid, curtails freedom of movement, and significantly impedes the development of affected communities.[15] In May 2016, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), which conducted CMR survey and clearance in South Sudan in 2015, reported that clearance in and around Juba county, as well as in parts of Eastern Equatoria state, had begun to address some of the humanitarian impacts of CMR contamination, and allowed for the delivery of food aid by the World Food Programme and the release of land for agriculture and cattle farming.[16]

Other ERW and Landmines

South Sudan has a significant problem with mines and especially ERW, resulting from large-scale use of explosive weapons during armed conflicts in 1955–72 and 1983–2005. The legacy of protracted conflict has meant that nearly eight million people in South Sudan live in areas where the presence of mines and ERW threatens their safety.[17] In 2016, UNMAS claimed that the socio-economic cost of mines and ERW in South Sudan in terms of interrupted agricultural production, food insecurity, halted commerce, and the lack of freedom of movement was "incalculable".[18]

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The South Sudan Demining Authority (SSDA) — now named the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) — was established by presidential decree in 2006 to act as the national agency for coordination, planning, and monitoring of mine action in South Sudan.[19]

UN Security Council Resolution 1996 of 2011 tasked UNMAS with supporting South Sudan in demining and strengthening the capacity of the NMAA. UNMAS (with the NMAA) has been overseeing mine action across the country through its main office in Juba, and sub-offices in Bentiu, Bor, Malakal, and Wau. UNMAS is responsible for accrediting mine action organisations, drafting national mine action standards, establishing a quality management system, managing the national database, and tasking operators.[20] The NMAA takes the lead on victim assistance and risk education.[21]

While it is planned that eventually the NMAA will assume full responsibility for all mine action activities, South Sudan's national strategic plan for mine action for 2012–16 notes that the government did "not have the financial and technical capacity to support its mine action program. UN agencies, development partners, and international organizations will need to support the program in providing technical and financial assistance".[22] UN Security Council Resolution 1996 authorised the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to support mine action through assessed peacekeeping funds.[23]

In May 2014, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2155 in response to the conflict that broke out in December 2013. The resolution, which marked a significant change in mine action policy, effectively ended the mission's mandate to support capacity development of government institutions.

Strategic Planning

UNMAS reported that there were no significant changes in 2015 to the current national mine action strategic plan for 2012–16, which was developed by the NMAA with assistance from the UN and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).[24] The main objectives of the plan are to ensure that:

- South Sudan is in a position to comply with all international instruments related to mines and ERW and can conduct and manage the national mine action programme.
- The scope and location of the mine and ERW contamination are fully recorded, and all high-impact contaminated areas are identified, prioritised, cleared, and released.
- The national mine action programme contributes to reducing poverty and increasing socio-economic development by being mainstreamed into development programmes.[25]

In June 2016, UNMAS reported that a new national mine action strategic plan was under development and would be presented in January 2017.[26]

1 Email from Robert Thompson, Chief of Operations, UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), 21 April 2016.

2 UNMAS, "About UNMAS in South Sudan", updated March 2014, at: http://www.mineaction.org/programmes/southsudan.

3 UNMAS, "2016 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects: South Sudan", undated but 2016, at: http://www.mineaction.org/taxonomy/term/1116.

4 Ibid.

5 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016.

6 South Sudan, "National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2012–2016", Juba, 2012, pp. 4–6, 9.

7 Cluster Munition Monitor, "Country Profile: South Sudan: Cluster Munition Ban Policy", updated 23 August 2014. See also UNMAS, "Reported use of Cluster Munitions South Sudan February 2014", 12 February 2014; and UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), "Conflict in South Sudan: A Human Rights Report", 8 May 2014, p. 26.

8 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 12 May 2014.

9 Response to questionnaire by Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 30 March 2015.

10 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 14 June 2016.

11 UNMAS, "Reported use of Cluster Munitions South Sudan February 2014", 12 February 2014. See also UNMISS, "Conflict in South Sudan: A Human Rights Report", 8 May 2014, p. 26.

12 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016. This is a discrepancy of two SHAs from the total number of SHAs UNMAS reported remaining as of end 2014, following the identification of 70 new CMR-contaminated areas and the clearance of a total of 64 SHAs, which UNMAS reported for 2015 (116 compared to 114).

13 On 7 February 2014, UNMAS UXO survey teams discovered remnants of RBK-250-275 cluster bombs and unexploded AO-1SCh submunitions on the Juba-Bor road, south of Bor in Jonglei state. The RBK-type cluster munitions are air-delivered weapons, dropped by fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters. Both Uganda and the South Sudanese government forces are believed to possess aircraft that can deliver these weapons, whereas opposition forces do not. UNMISS, "Conflict in South Sudan: A Human Rights Report", 8 May 2014, pp. 26–27; and Cluster Munition Monitor, "Country Profile: South Sudan: Cluster Munition Ban Policy", updated 16 August 2014.

14 Statement by South Sudan, CCM Fifth Meeting of States Parties, San José, 3 September 2014.

15 Emails from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016; and Hilde Jørgensen, Desk Officer for Horn of Africa, NPA, 19 May 2016.

16 Email from Bill Marsden, Regional Director East and Southern Africa, MAG, 12 May 2016.

17 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016.

18 UNMAS, "2016 Portfolio of Mine Action Projects: South Sudan", undated but 2016.

19 "South Sudan De-Mining Authority", undated, at: http://www.goss-online.org/.

20 South Sudan, "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2012–2016", Juba, 2012, p. iv.

21 Response to questionnaire by Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 24 May 2013.

22 South Sudan, "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2012–2016", Juba, 2012, p. iii.

23 UNMISS, "United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre [UNMACC]", undated, at: http://unmiss.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4313&language=en-US.

24 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016; and South Sudan, "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2012–2016", Juba, 2012, p. iii.

25 South Sudan, "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2012–2016", Juba, 2012, p. v.

26 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 14 June 2016.

Standards

The National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSG) for mine action in South Sudan were updated in October 2015.[27] According to UNMAS, the NTSGs cover CMR survey and clearance.[28] The new NTSGs are monitored by UNMAS and the NMAA.[29]

Operators

Four international demining non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operated in South Sudan in 2015: DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Demining Group (DDG), MAG, and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). Four commercial companies also conducted demining: G4S Ordnance Management (G4S), Mechem, Dynasafe MineTech Limited (DML) (formerly MineTech International, MTI), and The Development Initiative (TDI). No national demining organisations were involved in clearance in 2015.[30]

NPA deployed three non-technical and technical survey teams integrated with eight mine detection dog (MDD) teams, along with two multi-tasking explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams.[31] MAG changed in mid-2015 from conducting primarily EOD spot clearance and community liaison to deploying multi-task teams (MTT) on large-area tasks. It deployed one MineWolf 330 and one Bozena 4 machine along with a total of 57 demining personnel.[32] DDG began a CMR-clearance task at the end of 2015.[33] TDI reported deploying between two and four MTTs and two Route Assessment and Clearance Capacity (RACC) teams in 2015.[34] G4S had a capacity of two Integrated Clearance Capacity (ICC) teams, four quick response teams, and eight MTTs. MECHEM deployed two mine action teams and DML two ICC teams and six explosive dog detection teams.[35] UNMAS assigns CMR tasks to operators.

LAND RELEASE

In 2015, just over 1.4km^2 of CMR-contaminated area was released, of which almost all was released by clearance.[36] In 2014, 1.4km^2 was similarly released, of which 1.28km^2 was released through clearance and 0.12km^2 cancelled through non-technical survey (NTS).[37]

Survey in 2015

The UNMAS database indicates that just over 1.35km^2 of land was confirmed as contaminated with CMR and 500m^2 was cancelled by NTS for 2015 (see Table 2).[38] This is a slight decrease from 2014, when a total of 1.4km^2 of land was confirmed CMR contaminated and 0.12km^2 was cancelled by NTS.[39] UNMAS reported that of the 70 areas confirmed by survey to contain CMR in 2015, 26 were cleared during the year.[40]

Table 2: **CMR survey in 2015**[41]

Operator	SHAs cancelled	Area cancelled (m²)	SHAs confirmed	Area confirmed (m²)
UNMAS	1	500	0	0
G4S	0	0	29	428,825
MAG	0	0	6	58,492
SIMAS	0	0	2	101
DML (MTI)	0	0	13	43,009
NPA	0	0	14	275,214
TDI	0	0	6	548,602
Totals	**1**	**500**	**70**	**1,354,243**

Table 3: **Clearance of CMR-contaminated areas in 2015**[42]

Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m²)	Submunitions destroyed	APM destroyed	AVM destroyed	UXO destroyed
DCA[43]	11	0	0	0	0	0
DDG	3	13,704	0	0	0	3
G4S	14	1,144,459	558	0	1	46
MAG	1	10,545	17	0	0	0
Mechem	1	9,544	58	1	0	2
DML (MTI)[44]	3	0	8	0	0	2
NPA	2	154,186	592	1	0	25
TDI	3	75,655	2	0	0	10
Totals	**38**	**1,408,093**	**1,235**	**2**	**1**	**88**

APM = anti-personnel mine AVM = anti-vehicle mine

Clearance in 2015

Just over 1.4km^2 of CMR-contaminated area was cleared in 2015, with the destruction of more than 1,200 submunitions, as shown in Table 3.[45] This is an increase from 2014 when almost 1.28km^2 was cleared with 254 submunitions destroyed.[46]

In addition, in 2015 eight operators (DCA, DDG, G4S, MAG, Mechem, DML, NPA, and TDI) conducted battle area clearance (BAC) of almost 4.5km^2 and closed a total of 1,764 spot tasks, destroying nearly 27,400 items of UXO in the process. This is a slight decrease from the 5.57km^2 of BAC in 2014.[47]

ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

South Sudan is not a state party or signatory to the CCM. Nonetheless, South Sudan has obligations under customary international human rights law to clear CMR as soon as possible, in particular by virtue of its duty to protect those under its jurisdiction. Due to the ongoing conflict, it is not possible to predict when South Sudan might complete clearance of CMR on its territory, nor estimate the true extent of contamination.[48]

The National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2012–2016 includes as a specific objective that South Sudan become a state party to the CCM, approve national implementing legislation, and develop policy dialogue with partners to mobilise resources.[49]

UNMAS reported in April 2016 that it did not foresee major changes, and pledged to continue to support UNMISS's mandate.[50] NPA expected an increase in funding in 2016, which would enable it to add two NTS/technical survey teams. It planned to focus on releasing CMR-contaminated land needed for settlement and agriculture in Greater and Eastern Equatoria states, noting that survey would be conducted in the northern regions once the security situation improved.[51]

Due to ongoing conflict and security challenges in the northern states of South Sudan, MAG planned to concentrate operations in Central and Eastern Equatoria states in 2016, with the aim of these areas becoming free from ERW within five years. New donors would enable it to conduct more NTS in 2016, with five community liaison teams and five technical teams deployed to ensure all hazardous areas have been recorded. It expected survey to identify more SHAs and CHAs with CMR.[52]

Women passing nearby an area cleared of cluster munition remnants by DDG. © William Maina, DDG

27 Emails from Hilde Jørgensen, NPA, 19 May 2016; Bill Marsden, MAG, 12 May 2016; and William Maina, Mine Action Operations Manager, Danish Demining Group (DDG), 6 May 2016. The updated National Technical Standards and Guidelines are available at: http://www.unmas.org/southsudan/wp-content/uploads/NTSG/NTSG2015.pdf.

28 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016; and responses to questionnaires by Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 30 March 2015; and Augustino Seja, NPA, 11 May 2015.

29 Email from Hilde Jørgensen, NPA, 19 May 2016.

30 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016. MTI changed its name to DML on 3 August 2015. Dynasafe, "History of MineTech", at: http://www.minetech.co.uk/who-we-are/history-of-minetech/.

31 Emails from Hilde Jørgensen, NPA, 19 May 2016.

32 Email from Bill Marsden, MAG, 12 May 2016.

33 Emails from William Maina, DDG, 6 and 19 May 2016.

34 Email from Stephen Saffin, Chief Operating Officer, TDI, 30 May 2016.

35 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 14 June 2016.

36 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016.

37 Response to questionnaire by Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 30 March 2015.

38 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016.

39 Response to questionnaire by Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 30 March 2015.

40 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 14 June 2016.

41 Emails from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 14 June 2016; Bill Marsden, MAG, 12 May 2016; Hilde Jørgensen, NPA, 19 May 2016; and Damir Paradzik, Operations/QA Manager, DML, 2 June 2016. MAG reported confirming 10 SHAs with a total size of 166,877m^2 in 2015. NPA reported confirming three SHAs with a total size of 314,116m^2 through survey in 2015.

42 Emails from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016; Bill Marsden, MAG, 12 May 2016; Hilde Jørgensen, NPA, 19 May 2016; William Maina, DDG, 19 May 2016; and Damir Paradzik, DML, 2 June 2016. MAG reported clearing one area of CMR contamination with a size of 9,255m^2 and the destruction of 64 submunitions and 97 other items of UXO in 2015. NPA reported clearing six areas with a total size of 596,070m^2 and destroying 386 submunitions and 15 other items of UXO.

43 DCA did not conduct area clearance in 2015. According to UNMAS, in the 11 areas reported as cleared by DCA no contamination was found. Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 14 June 2016.

44 No area is reported as cleared as these were CMR destroyed in spot tasks. Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 14 June 2016.

45 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016.

46 Response to questionnaire by Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 30 March 2015.

47 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016.

48 Response to questionnaire by Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 30 March 2015.

49 South Sudan, "South Sudan National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2012–2016", Juba, 2012, p. vi.

50 Email from Robert Thompson, UNMAS, 21 April 2016.

51 Emails from Hilde Jørgensen, NPA, 19 May 2016.

52 Email from Bill Marsden, MAG, 12 May 2016.